

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 PA-03 CU-04 CEQ-02 EPA-04

SCI-06 SS-15 NSC-10 PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 RSC-01 /099 W

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P R 031948Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3116

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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VIENNA FOR COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, OVIP

SUBJECT: SPOKANE EXPO '74

REF: LONDON 8757

1. NORMAN REDDAWAY, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF INFORMATION AND CULTURAL MATTERS IN FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE (FCO) INFORMED EMBASSY TODAY THAT, AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF ALL ASPECTS, HMG HAD AGAIN DECIDED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE '74. FROM DISCUSSION WITH REDDAWAY IT APPEARS THAT BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, WHICH IN OUR OPINION (SEE PARA 5 REFTEL) WAS BEST HOPE OF EFFECTING A REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS HMG MINISTERIAL DECISION BY A STRONG ENOUGH RECOMMENDATION, WAS NOT MOVED TO MAKE SUCH A RECOMMENDATION BY ITS LATEST MEETING WITH SIMMONS, DINGWALL AND MCAULEY.

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2. EMBASSY ASKED REDDAWAY WHETHER THIS NEGATIVE DECISION MIGHT BE REVERSED IF CURRENT DEADLOCK AMONG EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE BROKEN AND, FOR EXAMPLE, FRANCE BELGIUM AND GERMANY DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN EXPO '74. REDDAWAY REPLIED THAT IN HIS OPINION THIS WOULD MAKE NO DIFFERENCE AT THIS STAGE.

3. EMBASSY ASKED WHETHER HMG MIGHT REVERSE ITS DECISION IF BRITISH INDUSTRY WERE TO COME UP WITH THE NECESSARY FINANCING FOR BRITISH PARTICIPATION. REDDAWAY SAID SUCH AN OFFER WOULD OBVIOUSLY REQUIRE A CAREFUL REVIEW BUT HE FELT THE ODDS MIGHT STILL BE AGAINST A DECISION TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE OF THE HISTORY OF TWO NEGATIVE MINISTERIAL DECISIONS. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE BRITISH TRADE COMMISSION OFFICE IN NEW YORK THROUGH CONSUL GENERAL FORD HAD BEEN SOUNDED OUT BY FCO AS TO THE INTEREST OF BRITISH COMPANIES IN U.S. FOR A BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN EXPO '74. FORD REPORTED LITTLE OR NO INTEREST ON THE PART OF BRITISH INDUSTRY IN THE U.S. ON THE BASIS OF SURVEY OF SELECTED CONTACTS HE MADE. SINCE, AS IS CUSTOMARY IN OUR OWN SOLICITATION OF HOME OFFICES OF AMERICAN FIRMS REGARDING SOLICITATION OF THEIR SUBSIDIARIES IN FAIRS OF HOST COUNTRIES, DECISIONS ON FAIR PARTICIPATION ARE GENERALLY MADE ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF LOCAL SUBSIDIARIES, WE DOUBT WHETHER DIRECT APPROACH TO BRITISH COMPANIES IN UK WILL BE FRUITFUL IN VIEW OF REPORT FROM BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL FORD IN NEW YORK.

4. COMMENT: BASED ON FOREGOING INFORMATION EMBASSY FEELS THAT FURTHER APPROACHES TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN LONDON HOLD NO HOPE OF SUCCESS. IF BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON CAN BE PREVAILED UPON TO MAKE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION WITH A VIEW TO UPSETTING THIS SECOND MINISTERIAL DECISION, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO PROCURE FAVORABLE DECISION BY FOLLOWING UP FURTHER HERE IN LONDON. OTHERWISE WE FEEL THIS CHAPTER MUST BE REGARDED AS CLOSED.
SOHM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON08992
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730859/aaaabrqp.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 LONDON 8757
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPOKANE EXPO '74
TAGS: OTRA, OVIP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005